

military service or within the family, young Americans display an enthusiasm, creativity, idealism, and dedication that have accomplished so much for our society and the world. Their patriotism and commitment to peace with freedom ensure a vigorous American democracy and a safer world in the years ahead.

In 1985 the United States joins the celebration of United Nations' International Youth Year. If we are to honor the potential of America's youth, we must remember that the most powerful force for progress comes not from governments or public programs, but from the vital traditions of a free people. Parents, youth organizations, and teachers deserve our support, encouragement, and thanks for the indispensable role they play in fostering and strengthening these traditions.

History makes clear that progress is swiftest when people are free to worship, create, and build—when they can determine their own destiny and benefit from their own initiative. The dream of human progress through freedom is still the most revolutionary idea in the world, and it is still the most successful. It is the priceless heritage America bestows on each new generation, with the hope that succeeding generations the world over will come to better know its fruits.

In the coming months, I urge American youth to reflect on our precious freedoms, to exchange ideas among themselves and with young people around the world, and to join with others in efforts to increase mutual understanding, enhance the observance of human rights, and promote world peace. In short, I urge our youth to be what they have been for many generations: America's proudest ambassadors of goodwill and our national values. One such opportunity is being offered by the people of Jamaica as they host the first-ever International Youth Conference in early April. The Conference will enable young Americans to discuss with their peers in other countries ways in which they can help shape the world of tomorrow.

Let all of us approach this year dedicated to youth by resolving to use our God-given talents and freedom to elevate our ideals, deepen our understanding, and strengthen our determination to make this world a better place for ourselves and for the generations of young people who will follow.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim 1985 as International Youth Year in the United States. I invite the Governors of the several States, the chief officials of local governments, and all Americans to observe this year with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and ninth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5300 of February 11, 1985

### National Big Brothers and Big Sisters Week, 1985

*By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation*

No task is more important to the future of our society than raising the next generation. And few volunteer organizations have done more over the years

to help our Nation perform that task successfully than the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America. These are men and women who take time from their own responsibilities and families to offer a helping hand to young people in need. Big Brothers and Big Sisters offer youngsters support, counseling, and—most important of all—friendship.

The spirit of voluntarism exemplified by this organization is the foundation of our way of life. Americans have always been a compassionate and decent people, and they have never waited for directions from government before devoting their time and energy to helping their neighbors. The Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America are adding new luster to this old tradition.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 594, has designated the week of February 17 through February 23, 1985, as a time to recognize the contributions of volunteers who give their time to become Big Brothers and Big Sisters to youths in need of adult companionship and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week. 98 Stat. 3175.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the period from February 17 through February 23, 1985, as "National Big Brothers and Big Sisters Week." I call upon the people of the United States and local and national governmental officials to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and ninth.

RONALD REAGAN

#### **Proclamation 5301 of February 12, 1985**

#### **National DECA Week, 1985**

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### *A Proclamation*

The value of the free enterprise system in America is confirmed when the products of our research, our industry, and our agriculture improve the quality of people's lives not only in America, but throughout the world. And the genius of American business has been to make the wealth of its factories and farms accessible to all.

For thirty-eight years, the Distributive Education Clubs of America have introduced high school and college students to the challenges, skills, and responsibilities of delivering the products of our free enterprise system to those who use them. Now numbering some 150,000 members in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, the Distributive Education Clubs of America are helping to prepare a cadre of professionals with the spirit of enterprise, the civic responsibility, and the complex skills needed to assure that America's strength in marketing keeps pace with the vast expansion of technology and the increasingly sophisticated needs of people in all parts of the world.

To give special recognition to the valuable contribution the Distributive Education Clubs of America are making to maintaining our Nation's eco-